

## THE NORTH WARD IS AWAKE

By now you have probably received the latest flyer concerning Ridge Street School's eighth grade extension from North Ward council candidate Anthony Carrino. While I do not feel that a further explanation by me of the motives of Councilman Frank G. Megaro's accomplishments for our school will serve a useful purpose at this point, I do take exception to the mis-statements in this literature involving remarks I personally made at a recent PTA meeting.

In a prior correspondence I outlined my personal involvement in the school's activities to gain an eighth grade extension. I reiterate my full knowledge of the negotiations, conferences and meetings and must state that I have not been used as a "pawn" as Mr. Carrino would like you to believe.

Mr. Carrino is also attempting to cause alarm among Ridge Street parents by intimating that we will be less than happy about the make-up of the first eighth grade student population.

This topic has been discussed at several public PTA meetings and it has been fully explained that we may be forced to accept bussing of students for the first year if we do not have a sufficient number of students from within our own district to fill desks.

Had Mr. Carrino been present at any of our previous meetings he would have been aware that the parents understand this possibility. Also, since we are actively seeking finalization of the actual lease arrangements, it is not known at this very moment where the new grades will be housed. This was also explained clearly at our public meeting. In any case, matters of this type must be left to the Board of Education staff, the County Superintendent of Schools and the school principal. I have every confidence that the final arrangements will be made very soon.

Our PTA will ensure this through the continuance of our active pressure on the responsible parties involved.

At a crucial time like this for our children, we do not need any outside incitement from any individual or group which would tend to divide our unified PTA and cause dissention among our parents. Those who truly place the needs of our students as the number one priority, devoid of any political motivations, resent the tactics employed by these parties to disrupt our activities. We strongly urge all political candidates and members of their organizations to abandon any practice in their campaigns which can result in adversity for our children.

Only through harmony and unity can we continue to realize accomplishments in our children's educational process. We will not allow anyone to impede the momentum we have worked so hard to generate for our children.

RIDGE STREET SCHOOL PTA - Richard J. Kerekes, President